

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Initially, Applicant would like to express appreciation to the Examiner for the detailed Official Action provided.

Upon entry of the above amendments claims 2 and 6 will have been amended. Claims 2-13 are currently pending, claims 5 and 8-13 being withdrawn from consideration in a previous Official Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejection, and allowance of all the claims pending in the present application.

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2-4, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by KULLMAN (U.S. Patent No. 5,477,763).

Without acquiescing to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, Applicants submit that claims 2 and 6 have been amended solely in order to more clearly recite the presently claimed invention and to expedite prosecution of the present application.

In this regard, Applicants submit that KULLMAN lacks any disclosure of the combination of elements as recited in claims 2 and 6.

In particular, both claims 2 and 6 generally set forth a saw blade including, inter alia, left and right set teeth, which are set in a lateral direction, as viewed in a cutting direction of the cutting teeth, wherein each of the left and right set teeth is a dovetail shaped set tooth having a tooth tip which is gradually enlarged in the lateral direction in addition to being set, the left teeth having opposing sides inclined in generally the same direction and the right teeth having opposing sides inclined in generally the same direction.

In setting forth the rejection, the Examiner continues to assert that KULLMAN discloses the presently claimed left and right set teeth being gradually enlarged and set in the lateral direction (*see* Annotated Figure 3 of KULLMAN on page 4 of the Official Action).

However, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Applicants submit that the device of KULLMAN is very different structurally from the presently claimed invention. More specifically, Applicants submit that KULLMAN discloses teeth 2 having opposing sides that converge at one end and diverge at the other, thereby forming teeth having a generally trapezoidal shape, as illustrated in Figure 2 of KULLMAN.

Thus, Applicants submit that KULLMAN does not disclose at least the presently claimed left teeth having opposing sides inclined in generally the same direction and right teeth having opposing sides inclined in generally the same direction, as recited in amended claims 2 and 6.

Additionally, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, Applicants submit that KULLMAN does not disclose each of the left and right set teeth being a dovetail shaped set tooth having a tooth tip which is gradually enlarged in the lateral direction in addition to being set, as generally recited in claims 2 and 6.

More specifically, Applicants direct the Examiner's attention to Figures 9A and 9B of the present Specification which illustrate some features that are exemplary of the elected embodiment (*e.g., although Figure 9B is drawn to the non-elected embodiment, the tooth illustrated in this Figure has the same shape as the set tooth shown in Figure 6 of the elected embodiment*).

In this regard, Applicants submit that Figure 9A shows a straight dovetail tooth and not a set tooth; further, the inclination angle in a vertical direction of the side surface (e.g., 17C) is represented by an angle θ_1 . Thus, Applicants submit that by adding a set angle to the straight dovetail shaped tooth, as illustrated in Figure 9B, a dovetail shaped set tooth is provided, the dovetail shaped set tooth being represented by an angle θ_2 which is larger than θ_1 .

Thus, Applicants submit that the angle θ_2 , which represents an inclination angle of a dovetail shaped set tooth, provides at least one advantage over the applied prior art in that the saw blade is configured to suppress a vertical dimension to a low level in view of a horizontal abrasion quantity at an outside corner of each of the left and right set teeth; thereby, providing a more stable and reliable saw blade (*see* page 5, lines 2-3 and lines 20-24, of the present Specification).

More specifically, Applicants submit that the presently claimed saw blade is configured such that an inclination angle θ_1 in a vertical direction of the left and right side surfaces 17C (e.g., at a chip 17 on the tooth tip) can be increased when a thickness (e.g., 17B) and a height on a tip side of the chip are constant.

In this regard, Applicants submit that the inclination angle θ_2 (at the side surface 17C) at the time of setting work becomes equal to the sum of the inclination angle θ_1 before the setting work and a setting angle provided at the time of the setting work, as illustrated in Figure 9B (thereby providing an inclination angle θ_2 which is larger than θ_1). Therefore, Applicants submit that it is possible to achieve a saw blade having an improved life; i.e., in comparison to conventional saw blades.

Thus, Applicants submit that KULMAN also fails to disclose at least the presently claimed each of the left and right set teeth being a dovetail shaped set tooth having a tooth tip which is gradually enlarged in the lateral direction in addition to being set, as generally recited in claims 2 and 6.

Accordingly, Applicants submits that the rejection of claims 2-4 and 6-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks herein-contained, Applicants submit that independent claims 2 and 6 are in condition for allowance. With regard to dependent claims 3, 4 and 7, Applicants assert that they are allowable on their own merit, as well as because of their respective dependencies from independent claims 2 and 6, which Applicants have shown to be allowable.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested, in due course.

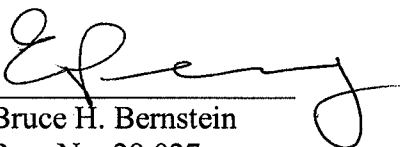
SUMMARY

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request an indication to that effect. Applicants have argued the allowability of the claims and pointed out deficiencies of the applied reference. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate.

Applicants note that this amendment is being made to advance prosecution of the application to allowance, and should not be considered as surrendering equivalents of the territory between the claims prior to the present amendment and the amended claims. Further, no acquiescence as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection is made by the present amendment. All other amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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